

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03453 120255Z
ACTION EUR-12

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P 112040Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8010

UNCLAS OTTAWA 03453

EO 11652 NA
TAGS CA
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE: DEDICATION OF CANADA'S
"DISCOVERY TRAIN".

1. SUMMARY: THIS TELEGRAM RECOMMENDS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER
SEND A MESSAGE TO BE READ BY AMBASSADOR ON OCCASION OF
DEDICATION OF CANADA'S "DISCOVERY TRAIN" WHICH HAD
PREVIOUSLY BEEN U.S. FREEDOM TRAIN. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JULY 22 THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WILL DEDICATE IN
KINGSTON, ONTARIO, IN THE PRESENCE OF GOVERNOR GENERAL
LEGER, THE "DISCOVERY TRAIN." AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN INVITED
TO PARTICIPATE IN DEDICATION CEREMONIES, ALONG WITH SENIOR
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF
CANADIAN COMPANIES WHICH HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO REFURBISHMENT
OF THIS TRAIN.

3. EQUIPMENT WAS PURCHASED BY NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF CANADA
FROM THE AMERICAN FREEDOM TRAIN FOUNDATION, THIS BEING THE
TRAIN WHICH TOURED U.S. DURING BICENTENNIAL YEAR. DRAWING
ON NATIONAL MUSEUM COLLECTIONS, GOC HAS NOW TURNED TRAIN
INTO TRAVELING EXHIBIT ON CANADA'S HISTORY AND HERITAGE.

4. GOC HAS COMMITTED SIZEABLE RESOURCES TO THIS PROJECT,
AND IS MAKING GREAT EFFORT TO PUBLICIZE IT AS PART OF
CAMPAIGN TO SUSTAIN NATIONAL UNITY. GIVEN HISTORY OF
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THIS EQUIPMENT, AND HIGHLY EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE RENDERED TO
GOC BY AMERICANS WHO HAD PARTICIPATED IN FREEDOM TRAIN
OPERATION, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE NOT
ONLY FOR AMBASSADOR TO ATTEND DEDICATION CEREMONY IN
KINGSTON, BUT FOR HIM TO READ SOME BRIEF GREETING FROM
PRESIDENT CARTER. FYI: MUSEUM OFFICIALS HAVE SUGGESTED TO
US THAT A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE WOULD BE WARMLY RECEIVED.

END FYI.

5. EMBASSY SUGGESTS FOLLOWING DRAFT FOR CONSIDERATION AS
PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE:

BEGIN TEXT:

"MILLIONS OF AMERICANS JOIN ME IN EXPRESSING CONGRATULATIONS
AND GOOD WISHES TO YOU TODAY AS THE DISCOVERY TRAIN BEGINS
ITS JOURNEY THROUGH CANADA. IT TRAVELED THROUGH THE
UNITED STATES AS THE FREEDOM TRAIN DURING OUR BICENTENNIAL
YEAR GIVING AMERICANS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT OUR
OWN HERITAGE.

"I AM PLEASED TO KNOW THAT DISCOVERY TRAIN WILL CONTINUE
ITS TRAVELS, AFFORDING CANADIANS EVERYWHERE ACROSS YOUR
VAST LAND A FIRST-HAND GLIMPSE INTO CANADA'S HISTORY.

"SINCE THE RAILROAD PLAYED SUCH AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE
WESTWARD EXPANSION OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES, IT IS FITTING
THAT WE USE THIS MEANS OF BRINGING THE PAST INTO CLEARER
FOCUS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE.

"I WISH CANADA'S DISCOVERY TRAIN A LONG AND SUCCESSFUL
JOURNEY."

ENDERS

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